

Contact: Bill R. Hedrick FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Phone: 614.645.8874

Email: <u>brhedrick@columbus.gov</u>

Electronics Bandit Wanted

COLUMBUS, **OH**—Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. announced that Christopher Allen Wehrle is the latest "Fugitive of the Week" after six warrants were issued for the 45 year old Dublin-area man's arrest. Wehrle is accused of stealing video games, DVDs, and other electronic items from various retailers in northwest Columbus, even targeting the same store four times in one month.

"With some experts estimating that as many as one in twelve people shoplift in the United States, it is a constant battle to stop retail theft," said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.

On February 2, 2013 Wehrle reportedly stole seven PlayStation 3 games, each valued at \$19.99, for a total of \$139.93. He broke open the packages and stuffed the game discs into an Adidas duffel bag, valued at \$24.99, which he also stole from the store.

On April 14, 2013 Wehrle is accused of stealing several X-Box 360 video games, including *Call of Duty 2, Grand Theft Auto IV*, and *Halo Reach*. The total amount stolen was \$67.96.

On June 7, 2013 Wehrle allegedly stole five DVDs with a total value of \$87.80 from a Bethel Road retailer. He stole five more DVDs worth a total value of \$73.04 from the same store on June 16, 2013.

Wehrle came back a third time on June 27, 2013 and stole a Bluetooth CD receiver valued at \$99.97. On July 2, 2013 he came back again and stole a \$138 Pioneer CD receiver.

In almost all instances, Wehrle reportedly was aided by an accomplice as a dark sedan was waiting by the exits to pick him up and speed away.

According to court documents, Wehrle is currently on probation as a result of a 2009 conviction for breaking and entering.

"Thieves like this seem to steal with impunity," said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. "In one instance, he nonchalantly walked up to the cashier area and stole a \$1.24 lighter on his way to stuffing Tyler Perry and Sylvester Stallone movies down his pants."

Anyone with information on Christopher Allen Wehrle is asked to contact Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov.

WANTED



CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

WEHRLE

DOB: 10/4/1968 (Age 45)

Height: 5'10" Weight: 230 Hair: Black Eyes: Green

Last Known Address:

6276 Michael Kenny Ln. Dublin, OH 43016

Case Number(s):

2013 CRB 010664 2013 CRB 010665 2013 CRB 023263 2013 CRB 023264 2013 CRB 023265 2013 CRB 023266

Charge(s):

2913.02 - Theft (six counts)